

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-10 EB-07 /096 W

----- 032210

R 190815Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8234

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

UNCLAS TAIPEI 0420

CINCPAC FOR POLAD (FOR AMBASSADOR UNGER, COM MEETING)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW

SUBJECT: CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ON US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC

1. FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF A JANUARY 19 CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "RECOGNITION IS NOT INEVITABLE."
2. BEGIN QUOTE - SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE AND PRE-SUMABLY ELSEWHERE ARE UNOFFICIALLY SUGGESTING THAT WASHINGTON RECOGNITION OF PEIPING IS INEVITABLE BUT THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TAIWAN WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
3. THIS IMPRESSION IS CONVEYED IN OFF-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS OF AMERICAN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENTS - ALTHOUGH USUALLY NOT INCLUDING THE REPORTERS OF THIS COUNTRY.
4. MAYBE THESE ARE MERE PERSONAL EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRY IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO EXPRESS THEIR PERSONAL VIEWS.

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5. MANY REPORTERS ACCEPT WHAT THEY ARE TOLD AS U.S.

POLICY. THEY BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO RECOGNIZE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AFTER NEXT JANUARY'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.

6. IN FAIRNESS, IT MUST BE ATTESTED THAT LEONARD UNGER, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NOT GIVEN PUBLIC OR KNOWN OFF-THE-RECORD SUPPORT TO THE THESIS OF IMMINENT AND INEVITABLE U.S. RECOGNITION OF PEIPING.

7. MR. UNGER IS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES FOR CONSULTATIONS AND HOME LEAVE. HE RECENTLY SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE AND THAT HIS CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN ROUTINE.

8. IF GERALD FORD AND HENRY KISSINGER WERE PLANNING A RECOGNITION CHANGE (PRESUMING THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS NOMINATED AND ELECTED THIS YEAR), WOULDN'T THEY TELL THEIR AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

9. WE CAN'T BE SURE. THAT IS A REASONABLE PRESUMPTION, YET THE SITUATION IS UNIQUE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT MR. UNGER - KNOWN AS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA - WOULD NOT BE TOLD, AT LEAST NOT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

10. FROM SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL BROAD HINTS OF PEIPING RECOGNITION TO COME. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS THE DIRECTION SET BY THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF FOUR YEARS AGO BUT THAT THERE IS NO TIMETABLE.

11. IF THIS IS THE SCENARIO - OR WHAT MR. KISSINGER BELIEVES TO BE THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME - THEN WHAT LIES BEHIND THE UNOFFICIAL ASSURANCES OF STATE DEPARTMENT LESSER LIGHTS THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA NEED NOT WORRY AND THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT FOR TAIWAN ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY?

12. HOW DO U.S. DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONARIES KNOW THIS? WHO TOLD THEM? WHAT ARE TO BE THE GUARANTEES? HOW COULD THE UNITED STATES PROTECT A STATE WHICH IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE AND WITH WHICH IT HAD NO OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP?
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13. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SAID SOUTH KOREA WOULD BE ALL RIGHT AFTER THE KOREAN ARMISTICE. IT WAS AND STILL IS. PRESIDENT NIXON (AND DR. KISSINGER) SAID SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD BE ALL RIGHT AFTER THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT. SOUTH VIETNAM NO LONGER EXISTS.

14. THE KOREAN PEACE WAS SELF-ENFORCING - GUARANTEED BY

THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAM PEACE WAS NOT. IN THE ABSENCE OF U.S. GUARANTEES, THE COMMUNISTS SIMPLY WALKED IN AND TOOK OVER SOUTH VIETNAM.

15. HOW COULD THE UNITED STATES HELP DEFEND TAIWAN IF AMERICA LEFT THE ISLAND AND THE TAIWAN STRAITS? HOW COULD THE UNITED STATES MAINTAIN A PRESENCE HERE ONCE IT HAD ENDORSED THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS' TITLE TO TAIWAN?

16. DR. KISSINGER HAS IMPLIED HE WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A PROMISE FROM THE PEIPING REGIME NOT TO RESORT TO FORCE AND VIOLENCE. BOTH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AND HIS UNDERLINGS HAVE SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE TO BE TRUSTED.

17. THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE LINE USED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS OF REPORTERS. TAIWAN IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT BECAUSE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE GOING TO LEAVE IT ALONE.

18. TO US, THIS IS RIDICULOUS. THE COMMUNISTS DIDN'T KEEP THEIR PROMISES EVEN IN KOREA. MILITARY TERMS OF THE ARMISTICE WERE TORN UP LONG AGO - BY THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS THE COMMUNISTS. THE AMERICANS HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. SOUTH KOREA HAS BEEN DEFENDED BY THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES, MILITARY AID TO THE ROK AND THE EMPLACEMENT OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

19. IN VIETNAM, NOT A SINGLE COMMUNIST PROMISE WAS KEPT. ONCE THE AMERICANS WERE GONE, THERE WAS NO SELF-ENFORCEMENT OF THE PEACE. IN THE COMMUNIST LEXICON, A PROMISE IS A TRICK PLAYED ON A NAIVE ANTAGONIST.

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20. THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO INSIST ON RECOGNITION OF PEIPING HAVE NOT, WE THINK, THOUGHT THROUGH THE PROBLEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TAIWAN.

21. THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT RECOGNITION OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, UNLESS THE FUTURE OF THE ROC AND TAIWAN CAN BE SAFE-GUARDED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

22. HENCE THE ASSURANCE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT AND THE SUGGESTION THAT CHINESE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS IS UNTHINKABLE. THOSE WHO DISSEMINATE THIS LINE MAY NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT IT IS TRUE. THEY ARE AWARE THAT AMERICANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT PEIPING RECOGNITION

BASED ON THE IMPLICATION OF SURRENDERING TAIWAN TO THE COMMUNISTS.

23. THE TRUTH IS SIMPLE. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND CONTINUE TO HELP DEFEND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TAIWAN. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND KEEP ITS LEGAL AND MORAL COMMITMENTS TO THE FREE CHINESE PEOPLE.

24. THIS IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE TERMS HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS: A FREE HAND IN TAIWAN IN RETURN FOR AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PEIPING.

25. SOONER OR LATER, THE AMERICANS HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE PRICE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. WILL THEY PAY? WE STILL REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL, AND THAT MAKES RECOGNITION FAR FROM INEVITABLE. END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI00420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760019-0634
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760143/aaaabmbml.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <09 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ON US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC
TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006